

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Notice states that the statutory basic filing fee is insufficient and that the oath or declaration was missing from the original application. Applicants will address each of these items in turn.

With respect to the insufficiency of the basic filing fee, the Office asserts that Applicants need to submit \$10 to complete the basic filing fee for a small entity. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. On July 31, 2003, Applicants filed the present Application as a large entity, and therefore, paid the large entity filing fee (the \$750 basic filing fee and \$282 required for additional claims), as is evidenced by the Patent Application Transmittal Letter attached hereto under Exhibit A. Additionally, Applicants checked the box on the Transmittal Letter authorizing the Director to charge any additional filing fees required to deposit account 04-2223. Applicants then filed an Assertion of Small Entity Status, which was received by the Office on October 16, 2003 (a copy of the postcard and Assertion are attached hereto under Exhibit B). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that because the application was initially filed with the fees required for a large entity and that because the box required to authorize the Director to charge any additional filing fees was checked, it cannot be deficient in its filing fee. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no additional fees are due and requests notification from the Office indicating the same.

With respect to the missing oath or declaration, Applicants acknowledge that a declaration was not filed contemporaneously with or subsequent to the original application. Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants are submitting herewith the enclosed executed Declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.63. Additionally,

Attorney Docket No. 69,010-319

Serial No. 10/631,311

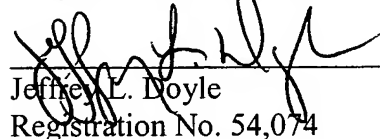
Applicants acknowledge that a declaration surcharge in the amount of \$65 is also required for a small entity.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby authorize the Office to charge the surcharge of \$65 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.16(e), as well as any and all additional fees or deficiencies deemed necessary, to deposit account 04-2223.

Applicants respectfully submit that the enclosed documents are responsive to the Notice of Missing Parts. If the Office has any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Date: _____

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Doyle

Registration No. 54,074

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

39577 Woodward Ave., Ste. 300

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

(248) 203-0782

Attorney for Applicant

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ID\JLDO